fresh delimitation of constituencies taking into account the population changes, changes in administrative boundaries and other factors like urbanisation, industrialisation, etc. is under consideration. It would not be feasible at this stage to indicate the time by which this matter can be finalised.

(c) Does not arise.

Gap between demand and availability of Power

466. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to bridge the gap between the demand for and the availability of power in the country during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): To meet the shortage of power in the country, a number of steps are being taken which include:—

(1) Expediting commissioning of additional generating capacity.

(2) Maximising generation from the existing thermal power plants through plant betterment/renovation programme.

(3) Reducing the transmission and distribution losses.

(4) Adopting measures for energy conservation.

(5) Transfer of power from surplus States to deficit States.

Development of coal mining project in Andhra Pradesh

467. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have recently approved an investment of Rs. 10.45 crores for the development of new coal mining project in the Belampalli area in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have recently approved the Srirampur No. 3 &3-A inclines project of the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.46 crores for a targetted production of 0.30 million tonnes per annum from 1990-91 onwards.

Separate P&T Circle for Assam

468. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate P&T Circle for Assam is proposed to be constituted; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when it is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to constitute a separate Postal Circle. But there is a proposal to constitute a separate Telecom. Circle. Orders for bifurcation of the existing North-Eastern Telecom. Circle and formation of a separate Telecom. Circle for Assam have been issued on 14-4-1986. The new Circle will notionally come into being from the date the General Manager Telecom. for Assam takes over. The headquarters of Assam Telecom. Circle will be located at Shillong initially. The redistribution of staff/assets/functions between these two Circles will be carried out in consultation with the GMs of Assam and N.E. Telecom. Circle. However, until the assets/staff of the existing N.E. Telecom. Circle are fully bifurcated and the new Circle is able to function independently from the new Headquarters, the G.M. of the existing N.E. circle will be overall incharge of both the Circles.